



Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Arizona Adult Education in Pima County

Program Year 2004-2005

Adult Education is the delivery of literacy services to out-of-school adults: those 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education (ABE):** instruction in reading, writing, and math through the 8th grade level
- **Adult Secondary Education (ASE):** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English Language Acquisition for Adults (ELAA)**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**



Literacy Volunteers of Tucson

The Need for Adult Education in Pima County

There are **843,746** people in Pima County. **81.3%** are 16 years old or older. Of that number, **17.0%** (116,828) are neither enrolled in school nor have a high school credential.*

Of those 18 and older, **3.7%** (31,443) of the total county population speaks English “not well” or “not at all.”*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. Three certified programs provide Adult Education throughout Pima County:

- **Pima College Adult Education**
- **Pima County Adult Probation**
- **Literacy Volunteers of Tucson**

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Pima County in Program Year 2004-2005:

Federal dollars: \$2,058,850
State dollars: \$885,150

Pima County Adult Education Data for Program Year 2004-2005

- 10,283 adults registered in Adult Education classes
- 714,086 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$4.12 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education
- \$286.30 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student (compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- 3,421 of 7,685 students (45%) improved more than two grade levels
- 437 of 495 students (88%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 632 of 799 students (79%) who sought a job found employment
- 1,078 of 1,165 students (93%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 34 students who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

GED Testing in Pima County

What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the adult education allocation. In Program Year 2004-2005:

**1,880 High School
Equivalency Diplomas were
issued in Pima County**

The GED Test was revised in 2002. The content of the GED 2002 Series Test now places a greater emphasis on the workplace and higher education needs. The major changes include:

- Inclusion of higher-order thinking skills
- Increased emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving
- Incorporation of more business-related material
- Inclusion of higher-level problem-solving skills in Mathematics
- Incorporation of alternate format or open-ended questions in Mathematics
- Usage of a scientific calculator in one part of the Mathematics test



Facts About GED Testing in AZ:

Over 25% of all high school diplomas issued in Arizona each year are earned through the GED Testing program.

During program year 2004, 40% of those taking the GED were 16 to 22 years of age.

An individual without a high school diploma will earn considerably less than someone with a high school equivalency diploma.

GED graduates are admitted to the state community colleges just like traditional high school graduates.

Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona admit GED graduates who have scored at a specified level above the GED passing score.